

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 23, 2001

LB 657

would...\$750,000 to Lincoln and \$1 million to the city of Omaha. I guess what I'm really trying to do is somehow salvage at least a share of the money that we've been talking about all morning that would go for the renovation and upkeep for the state buildings which I think it's pretty well attested that I have a deep concern about as I talked to a number of other senators who also have a concern about using up so much of the tobacco money for something that I'm not too sure it was ever designed for, not that there was any particular design for tobacco money. But it was an idea thought of some time ago to put some dollars in a renovation and maintenance fund to take care of those buildings that are in need of upkeep. So what this would do is eliminate at least half of that money that would go to those particular other projects and in turn stay in the maintenance, 309 maintenance account. I'm not going to spend a lot more time talking about all the needs. I tried to express those this morning insofar as why it's important, why those dollars are needed. I alluded to the various projects that are out there that are some of them actually critical. And if you don't think that that's...if you think that's a stretch, all you have to do is go talk to the people over in the office with the 309 Task Force and they will in fact show you some of the very critical projects that are out there. And as I indicated this morning, we intend to make a tour of many of the sites and continue to look at some of the buildings as they're being prioritized. As I suppose most of you probably know, the building, the maintenance, the upkeep, the work that's done is done on a priority basis. The buildings are looked at, a determination is made about the weaknesses and the problems that the buildings have and then we have an architect over there who has a great deal of experience in dealing with deficiencies in buildings. And after he makes his judgment, we review those as a committee and usually have a meeting with the people in the office, talk about what it might cost, what the cost might be and then we bring in people who make the estimates and then we bring in contractors. We have contractors who are approved to be used for state projects. They in turn determine what the costs are going to be and then we try and set that money aside as it is available. And, of course, if we don't have any available we can't set it aside. That's pretty obvious. But what we're trying to do here with this particular piece of legislation is